

have the employees actually come from the area. One of the big concerns I've had with enterprise zones is they are great, they're located in a distressed area but they don't employ the people from the distressed area. They are located there but they bring in the employees from elsewhere and so I always wondered how we would try and create a mechanism that would encourage them to employ those people that we're trying to help in that particular area we're trying to help. This seems to make sense and I know that there has been work on the reporting mechanism which again is important to track the impact. So I feel comfortable with it. I do support the bill and I appreciate Senator Hartnett's good work on this. I know he has put a lot of effort, a number of years on this and I want to thank you for a good job on this, as well as I know the Governor has worked hard on this and the Revenue Committee. So it looks good to me and I'd support the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, just briefly, I would urge your support for LB 725. Certainly as Senator Warner indicated, it is legitimate to raise a question whenever you talk about a tax incentive because as a rule we need to be very careful when we're granting those incentives because they are a potential loss in revenue for the state. But I think in the case of LB 725 the benefits far outweigh any potential loss in revenue because when we're talking about enterprise zones, by definition we are talking about the most distressed areas of the state with respect to population loss, poverty and unemployment. Standards are set in this bill. An area has to meet at least two of the three criteria that I just mentioned in order to qualify as an enterprise zone and, as Senator Wesely and Senator Hartnett pointed out, an individual or a company that is in there hiring people has to hire a substantial amount from the enterprise zone in order to qualify for the full enhanced credits that are granted under LB 725. I guess in conclusion, if you could ever vote for a tax incentive, this is one that you ought to be able to vote for because it certainly does address those areas that are in the most disadvantageous position economically in the state. The areas that need to have businesses locate there, there is the need to have their residents employed by those businesses. So with that I would strongly encourage your vote in favor of LB 725. Thank you.